

# FAQ'S

## Cricut Maker Series FAQ

### General

#### Is Design Space the same for Cricut Maker and Cricut Explore?

Yes, Design Space is the same for all Cricut cutting machines. Use the same URL ([design.cricut.com](https://design.cricut.com)) to download the app and use your Cricut ID to sign in. Design Space will adjust available options – such as tools, material cut settings, and material load options – based on machine selected.

#### What is the difference between Cricut Maker models?

The key differences are speed, length, and Smart Materials compatibility for cutting without a mat.

	Cricut Maker 3	Cricut Maker
Two tool clamps	✓	✓
Max material width	13 in (33 cm) of Smart Materials 12 in (30.5 cm) materials on a machine mat	12 in (30.5 cm) materials on a machine mat
Works with Smart Materials for long, continuous cuts without a machine mat	✓	—
Max cut length	Up to 12 ft (3.65 m) (Smart Materials only)	Up to 2 ft (0.59 m)
Up to 2X faster cutting and writing	✓ (Compared to Cricut Maker)	✓ (Compared to Cricut Explore Air)
Print Then Cut capability	On white & colored materials	On white & colored materials
Tool compatibility	13 (for cutting, writing, scoring & other pro-level effects)	13 (for cutting, writing, scoring & other pro-level effects)
Compatible with Roll Holder	✓	—

## What are the dimensions and weight of Cricut Maker machines?

- Height: 15.06 cm (5.93 in)
- Length: 53.80 cm (21.18 in)
- Depth: 17.75 cm (6.99 in)
- Weight: 4.84 kg (10.68 lbs.)

## What is the USB port on the side of my Cricut Maker for?

It is a charging port for your tablet or mobile device.

## What is the maximum size I can cut?

	<b>Cricut Maker 3</b>	<b>Cricut Maker</b>
Smart Iron-On	11.7 in x 4 ft (29.7 cm x 1.2 m)	—
Smart Vinyl	11.7 in x 12 ft (29.7 cm x 3.6 m)	—
Smart Paper Sticker Cardstock	11.7 in x 11.2 in (29.7 cm x 28.4 cm)	—
On a 12 in x 12 in mat (30.5 cm x 30.5 cm)	11.5 in x 11.5 in (29.2 cm x 29.2 cm)	11.5 in x 11.5 in (29.2 cm x 29.2 cm)
On a 12 in x 24 in mat (30.5 cm x 61 cm)	11.5 in x 23.5 in (29.2 cm x 59.6 cm)	11.5 in x 23.5 in (29.2 cm x 59.6 cm)

## Will I lose my cartridges, projects, or uploaded images if I upgrade to Cricut Maker 3?

No. Your cartridges (image sets), projects, and uploaded images are linked to your Cricut ID account. Activate your new machine with the same Cricut ID to keep using your content.

## Can I cut Smart Materials on previous models of Cricut Maker?

Cricut Explore 3 and Cricut Maker 3 have been designed, optimized, and rigorously tested for use with Smart Materials. Smart Materials are not intended for use with previous-generation Cricut Explore or Cricut Maker machines unless placed on a machine mat. Using Smart

Materials with older machines without a mat may cause material jams, compromise cutting precision, and damage machine parts, so this use is at your own risk.

## **Is the Cricut Maker power adapter the same as the one for Cricut Explore?**

The Cricut Maker power adapter has been upgraded to allow for 3 Amps of output. Cricut Explore machines have an output of 2.5 Amps. The upgraded capacity delivers 10X the cutting force and enables you to charge a mobile device via charging port on machine while in use.

The Cricut Maker 3 power adapter is more powerful than the power adapter of Cricut Maker to facilitate faster speeds and cutting without a mat.

Using a Cricut Explore power cord with any Cricut Maker machine will not damage the machine. However, if you are charging a mobile device while the machine is cutting, especially if cutting thicker materials, or materials that require more pressure, the motor may stutter, slow down, or turn off.

**Important:** We recommend using the power adapter that comes with your machine.

**Note:** Cricut Maker 3 and Cricut Maker power cords are not interchangeable, connectors/receptacles on each cord are different sizes.

## **How is the Cricut Maker Adaptive Tool System different than the Cricut Explore Cut Smart technology?**

Our Adaptive Tool System in every Cricut Maker machine allows for active management of the blade's position by intelligently lifting and rotating the blade into the optimal position for your next cut. This allows for greater precision, especially with smaller, more intricate projects or thicker materials.

Cut Smart technology in Cricut Explore machines cuts material by passively dragging the blade across the material, allowing the curves and angles of your design to change the blade direction.

## **Does Cricut Maker have Fast Mode?**

**Cricut Maker:** Yes, it does have a Fast Mode option for cutting and writing up to 2X faster than Cricut Explore Air when using some Vinyl, Iron-on, and Cardstock settings.

**Cricut Maker 3:** By default, Cricut Maker 3 runs at Fast Mode speeds for cutting and writing with certain materials on a mat. The machine has also been optimized to ensure top speed and precision with Smart Materials without a mat, so no Fast Mode needed!

## **How will Cricut Maker machines know which blade I have loaded?**

When cutting a project, Cricut Maker machines will move the carriage to the right (this is calling "homing"), then scan the blade to see which blade is installed.

## **How do I remove / replace the Accessory Adapter for my Cricut Maker machine?**

Follow [these instructions](#) to remove and replace your Accessory Adapter on all Cricut Maker models.

## **How thick can my material be with Cricut Maker machines?**

3/32 of an inch, or 2.4mm. Click [here](#) for more info on cutting thicker materials.

## **Do Cricut Maker machines have to be connected to the internet?**

Not necessarily. With the Design Space app installed on your computer or iOS mobile device, you can still design and send projects to your machine without internet connectivity. However, for certain features and functionality, such as content sync and uploading images, you'll need to be connected to the internet and signed in.

**Note:** Offline feature not currently available for Design Space on Android mobile devices.

**Tip:** Click [here](#) to learn more about designing and cutting offline on Desktop. Click [here](#) to learn how to use the Offline feature in the iOS app.

## **Cricut Maker 3**

### **What comes in the box with Cricut Maker 3?**

- Cricut Maker 3 machine
- Premium Fine-Point Blade + Blade Housing (pre-installed in the B clamp)
- Accessory Adapter (pre-installed in the A clamp)
- Quick Start Guide
- Safety document
- Warranty document
- USB Cable
- Power adapter and power cord
- Material for test cut
- Bonus materials

### **Is the setup process the same for the previous generations, as listed on the Cricut website?**

No. Go to [Cricut.com/setup](https://www.cricut.com/setup) to activate your Cricut Maker 3 machine.

### **How do I align Smart Materials when loading it into the machine?**

Align Smart Materials with left material guides. Push material gently against rollers as you press Load Button.

### **Can I use other brands of vinyl or iron-on without a mat?**

No. We recommend using a machine mat when using other brands of vinyl or iron-on. Cricut Smart Materials have been rigorously tested to cut without a mat on Cricut Maker 3 machines.

### **I'm new to Smart Materials. What are they?**

These clever materials work without a machine mat, just load the material directly into your Cricut Maker 3 machine and go. Smart Materials come in a variety of material types, including Smart Vinyl, Smart Iron-On, and Smart Paper Sticker Cardstock. Visit this article for information.

### **Do I need to measure and cut my Smart Material before I load it?**

No, you can load Smart Materials directly into your machine without measuring, or precutting.

### **How will I know if I have enough Smart Material for my project?**

Cricut Maker 3 measures loaded Smart Materials for each project before cutting. If more material is needed to cut your project, Design Space will prompt you to load the required material length.

**Tip:** You'll need at least 13 in x 6 in (33 cm x 15.2 cm) of Smart Materials to cut without a mat.

### **Do I need to buy the Cricut Roll Holder if I plan on using longer rolls of material?**

No, Cricut Maker 3 is designed to work with rolls of Smart Materials up to 75 ft (22.8 m) right out of the box. While not required, Cricut Roll Holder is extremely helpful when using larger rolls and it helps keep your material aligned for clean, precise cuts.

### **What happened to Cricut Maker 2?**

In short, we made substantial improvements to both Cricut Maker and Cricut Explore Air 2 to make them smarter and faster than ever. Because Cricut Explore 3 was launched in concert with Cricut Maker 3, it was easier to give them both the same 3rd generation reference, because really, they both deserve it!

With its ability to cut 300+ materials, 13 tools, and compatibility with our all-new Smart Materials for super-fast (up to 2X faster than its predecessor) and super-long cuts without a

machine mat, Cricut Maker 3 is the most powerful smart cutting machine we've ever made, for every craft and every crafter.

Cricut Explore 3 cuts 100+ materials, works with 6 tools and is a fantastic (and fantastically affordable) entry into pro-level crafting. It is also compatible with Smart Materials for super-fast (up to 2X faster than its predecessor) and super-long cuts without a machine mat.

### **What kind of motors does Cricut Maker 3 have?**

Servo motors.

### **How wide is a roll of Smart Vinyl or Smart Iron-On?**

The roll of material is 13 in (33 cm) wide. The maximum cuttable width is 11.7 in (29.7 cm).

### **Where did Fast Mode go?**

By default, Cricut Maker 3 runs at Fast Mode speeds for cutting and writing with certain materials on a mat, and is already optimized for top speed when cutting Smart Materials without a machine mat, so no Fast Mode needed!

### **How do I apply long lengths of vinyl?**

Follow [these instructions](#) to apply long cuts of vinyl onto your project surface.

### **What tools do I need to get started?**

Required tools will vary depending on the project. We recommend starting with our [Essential Tool Set](#).

### **Why is there a delay between pressing the pause button and my machine pausing?**

A small amount of data for your project is stored in your machine so it knows what to do next. When pausing a cut, there is a small delay while your machine processes the pause.

### **My Cricut Maker seems to cut materials on a mat faster than my Cricut Maker 3**

Both models runs at Fast Mode speed when possible (for Cricut Maker, when the Fast Mode toggle is on), we just don't show the Fast Mode toggle when using Cricut Maker 3 since it runs at Fast Mode speeds by default. However, unlike Cricut Maker, Cricut Maker 3 takes a few moments to measure your mat before cutting to ensure your mat/material is long enough.

